

Original Owners of Salt Lake's Business and Residence Districts

THE boundaries of Salt Lake City as originally determined, were almost identical with the lines of plat "A" as now existing, in fact they are exactly so on the south, east and west. On the north, slight changes have occurred, as for instance the addition of two or three short blocks on the "pan-handle" west of the Warm Springs and the withdrawal of the blocks now included in plats "B," "C," "D," "E," "F," "G," "H," "I," "J," and "K" immediately east of Main and north of South Temple street, exclusive of the Church buildings block.

One week and two days after the arrival of the pioneers into the valley of the Great Salt Lake, the first transit ever put up between the Missouri river and the Pacific coast was set in place, and just 18 days later announcement was made that the laying out of Salt Lake City was completed. During that brief period there had been surveyed 135 blocks, of ten acres each, bounded as follows: Ninth South, Third East, Fifth North, and Fifth West. In the initial drawing for lots only two blocks east of State and north of South Temple entered into the competition, namely, the one on which the Bransford apartments now stand and one to the north of it, and it was not long before the boundary line of plat "A" meandered north-west from Eagle gate to the north end of First West street, thus leaving the main plat of the city in much the same form as is the State of Idaho.

ORSON PRATT SURVEYOR.

To Orson Pratt fell the honor of heading the first surveying party that operated in the Rocky Mountains. His principal assistant was Henry G. Sherwood, and as the chief's time was much occupied in holding counsel with his colleagues of the Twelve, most of the labor incidental to surveying the site of the city fell to Mr. Sherwood. The plan upon which the city was to be laid out was determined by a council of leading men, Wednesday, July 28, 1847, which plan was changed before surveying commenced in an irregular way. The deviation had reference to the size of Temple block. On walking out from the camp on City creek during the evening of the day mentioned, President Young remarked to the men with him, as he planted his cane in the earth: "Here will be the Temple of our God. Here are the forty acres for the Temple." Forty acres seemed to strike all concerned as being about right at first, but after further consideration some were of the opinion that ten acres would be entirely adequate for the purpose indicated, and President Young gave way to the opinion of the majority of his advisors. Among those who contended for the greater acreage was George A. Smith, and to his dying day he held that the first suggestion should have been carried out.

Before beginning the work of surveying, Orson Pratt ascertained the exact latitude, longitude and altitude of Temple block. The first two were obtained by meridian observations of the sun and measurement of lunar distance by sextant and circle. The latitude was found to be 40 deg., 45 min., 44 sec.; longitude, 111 deg., 25 min., and 34 sec.; altitude, 4,300 feet.

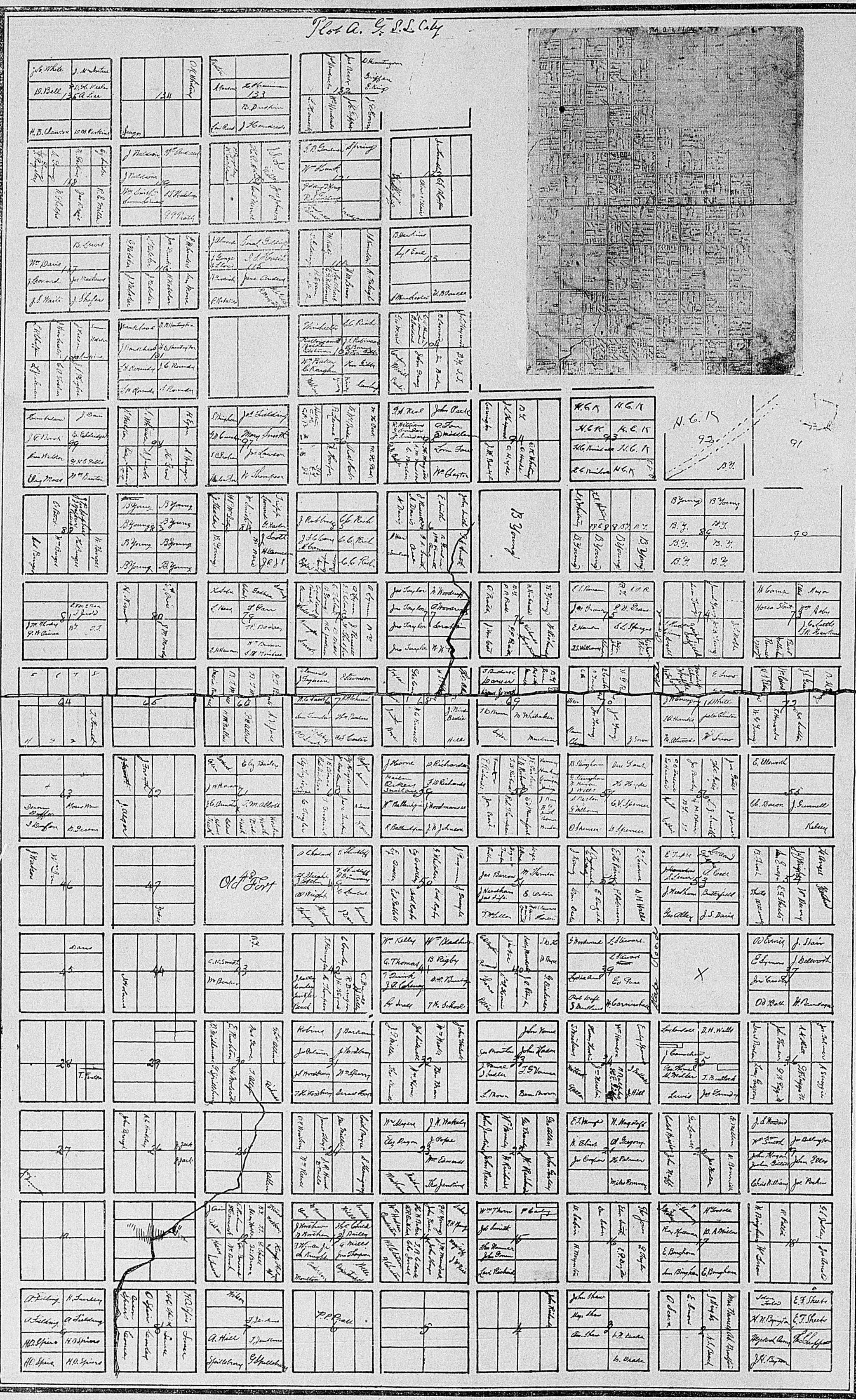
MERIDIAN MONUMENT.

A base and meridian monument was set up near the southeast corner of the block chosen for the Temple which at this day is marked by a rock pillar, and from that point the chains were carried north, south, east, west, until 135 blocks had been measured. The size of the lots, as well as the size of the blocks, was determined by the council mentioned, and these in no instance were to be larger than one and a quarter acres each, or eight lots to the block. About half of the lots had their greatest length north and south, while on the other half the lots were longer east and west.

Perhaps a plan for laying out a city and distributing the parcels of land to the people entitled to share in the division was never before so justly and equitably carried out as in the case of Salt Lake City. If there were any greedy natures among the pioneers, there was no opportunity afforded for the gratification of covousness. The lots were disposed of by allotment, and each received according to his needs. The man with a large family was permitted more land than the man with a small family, but in exact proportions. The leading men drew for choice of location near the site chosen for the future temple. In the process of "drawing cuts," many fared better than did President Brigham Young and his right hand man, Elder Heber C. Kimball. The former, or fell the rocky and undesirable hillside northeast of where the Eagle Gate now stands. It is a beautiful spot now, but the cost to make it so was enormous as compared with other parts. A location scarcely more favorable fell to Mr. Kimball, namely the block east of Main and north of North Temple. Others fared better, at least as to the desirability of location. For instance, Wilford Woodruff, second in command, where was subsequently built the Valley house, which is still standing. As each leading man had the privilege of settling his friends around him, or at least making choice for such individuals as he chose, the west half of the block went to John Taylor, while W. W. Phelps secured the southeast corner of the block.

HELD BY SMITH FAMILY.

George A. Smith drew the southeast corner of the block west of Temple block and on a portion of the lot his son, John Henry Smith, his daughter, Mrs. W. N. Williams, and his grandsons, George Albert Smith, now reside. John Smith, uncle to the Prophet Joseph Smith, had the northeast corner, west of him was Judge Elias Smith, the next lot west was held jointly by J. Russell and N. Davis, the northwest corner, west of him was Thomas A. Allister, on the south side of the block were William Francis and others. The situation here described obtained at the time the blocks were first mapped out on paper



HALFTONE REPRODUCTION OF THE ORIGINAL PLAT A APPEARS IN TOP RIGHT-HAND CORNER OF ABOVE ENLARGED COPY.

and very largely these holders were original owners. The Church property from the old Desert News corner to the Eagle gate appears upon the first map in the name of President Brigham Young. The exceptions were the two lots on the northwest corner of the block, which were owned by Bishop Newel K. Whitney. As before stated the block lying to the north had been taken by President Heber C. Kimball, and the block east of Eagle gate belonged to President Young, in his own right.

HYDE ALLOTMENT.

The Bishop Preston corner north of Temple block, was originally

owned by Dr. J. M. Bernhisel, first Delegate to Congress from the Territory of Utah. East of him was located Orson Hyde, upon ground now owned by his son, Alonzo Hyde. Next on the east was Orson K. Whitney, and upon the north side of the block were Albert Carington and Joseph L. Heywood, the latter the father of Ben Heywood.

To the block west of the last one described, one finds located on the southeast corner, William Clayton, and going northward and around the block appear upon the plat the names of Lorin Farr, Aaron Farr, John Pack and others.

Crossing again to the stretch south of South Temple, the site

now occupied by the Deseret News was in the name of Brigham Young, although the property belonged to the Church and was long known as the Council house corner. The quarter of the block now partly covered by the McCormick building was owned by Willard Richards. A strip through from the Sharon building to First South street was held by Parley P. Pratt, while the two corners bordering West Temple street belonged to Orson Pratt and John VanCott, the former having the lot closest to the southwest corner of the Temple block.

SITE OF Z. C. M. I.

Ezra T. Benson had the corner where the Templeton is now locat-

ed, of which D. H. Wells was for many years owner; the present site of Z. C. M. I. was owned by Jedediah M. Grant; Edward Hunter's lot was where the Hooper & Eldredge building is; Thomas S. Williams owned the Deseret National Bank corner; east of him were lots marked on the map with names of H. Band and John R. Clawson, Johnson, Dotson, Robins and Caborn, with the latter located on the Salt Lake Theater corner. The ground where the Bell Telephone, Evans the undertaker, the Whitehalls and Colonel Holmes are proprietors, was then the property of S. L. Sprague, George D. Grant, and A. P. Rockwood in the order named. The

Z. C. M. I. shoe factory site and Historian's office were in the name of Brigham Young as was also the corner where now stands the Utah National Bank. Going to the west around that block, the owners of corner lots were designated as follows: northwest corner, Thomas Ballock; southwest corner, Lamer; Walker's bank stands, Mullener; north of the latter were premises owned by Whitaker and Pixton. The last named property recently passed from the Robert Pixton estate to Thomas Kearns. The Walker Bank corner was once sold for a yoke of oxen. The corner now occupied by the Godbe Pitts Drug company is

marked on the map C. M. Blair, while the Smith corner stood in the name of Clawson. The Galena block corner stood in the name of Z. Snow, the intervening two lots between there and Smith's corner being owned by Joseph Young and John Young. North of Snow was C. Clive, and the Halliday Drug store corner was not marked.

This property has a unique history. It belonged to the Church, standing in the name of Brigham Young. A family named Carlisle lived for many years in a little house adjoining it. They were subjects of charity and were given free rent. Finally they decided that they had occupied the corner long enough to be entitled to ownership and refused to move. The case was carried through all the courts of the Territory, and up to the supreme court of the United States, being finally decided against the Carlises.

WHERE Y. M. C. A. STANDS.

Where the splendid Y. M. C. A. building stands, the "City Council" originally held title with Z. Snow owning the present corner. Little corner. The corner west of the Grand theater was held by Millen Atwood, and it is now a portion of the Atwood estate. Willard Snow was located on the southeast corner of the same block, while Jeter Clinton, father of the present commissioner of Salt Lake county, made his home where the Unitarian church stands.

The corner near where Mrs. C. A. Eldredge lives, First South and Second East, was secured by her late husband, General Horace Eldredge. Next to the corner Young had the southwest corner of that block, B. H. Young, was on the northeast corner, but on the map the southeast corner is a blank. Intervening lots were owned by John Y. Greene, John Clark and P. Horricks.

ROMANCE OF KENYON CORNER.

Coming again to Main street, it is found that the Kenyon hotel corner, running east and including the ground covered by the Wilson Hotel, originally belonged to Daniel Stringham. An interesting story is told of how this property many years later changed hands for \$500, the ground being 10 by 2 rods. After passing from the possession of Mr. Stringham, it was owned by two of Salt Lake's then foremost merchants. It was under a mortgage and the owners were about to take an extended trip to California, to purchase goods, the senior member called upon the person holding the mortgage to make settlement. The coin was piled up and gold dust weighed until the merchant's supply was exhausted, and still he was \$500 short of the required amount.

"I will bring in the balance before I leave," said the debtor. "Never mind," said the mortgagee. "I want you to bring my wife a silk dress and a pair of shoes, and then we will be square."

KILLED BY INDIANS.

The merchants never returned from the trip, both being killed by Indians, and the mortgage was foreclosed for the balance due.

Orson Spencer owned the St. Elmo hotel corner, and between him and the Kenyon were G. Williams, Samuel Neesen, Z. Wells, William W. Neesen, and George Stringham. Dan Grant owned the corner where the Dayton Drug company is located and Daniel Spencer was on the Brooks Arcade corner next to the latter. On the north was Claudius V. Spencer, and still farther north H. Hyde.

WHERE JUDGE BLOCK STANDS.

Where the Judge building stands, Jacob Houtz once held away, while Daniel Drake owned the ground where the Newhouse skyscrapers now rear their lofty heads, and the same ownership took in the property of the Kimball estate on the corner.

The corner occupied by the drug store on Fourth South and State was owned by D. H. Wells, and the corner a block north was the property of Edward Lawrence. Ed. H. Pelrice, Sr., was located where the new Colonial theater opened its doors last month.

A man named Calkins owned the Knutsford corner, while the northwest corner of the same block was held by Edward Hunter.

OWNERS OF WALKER SITE.

Where Walker's store stands was the possession of one Gheen. And later still it was owned by Col. H. S. Beate, whose widow sold it to the Walkers about 1880 for \$10,000, and on the same block which was cut up into smaller parcels than most others were located persons of the following names: Mark, Mark, D. Hunt, Haguer, Taylor, Pullen, the latter on the northwest corner, Joseph Barrow, J. Needham, James Fife, Thomas McEllan, the latter on the southwest corner, Epworth, Martin Horns, Hunter on the southeast corner, and to the northward Clawson, A. Orton and M. Thurston.

The northeast corner of the block occupied by the National Bank of the Republic had more owners at the time the first map was made than perhaps any other in the city. The corner in question was owned by Miles and George Romney, father and son, and the latter still retains a part. Immediately south of the corner, Emunepuoy property owned south of the Cliff House, appear the names of Carrigan, Jennings, S. Kay, Brigham Young, Smith, Palmer, and Winder. Going west, are found Ed. Mumford, Robert Thompson, Jacob Pearl, the last named occupying the Metropolitan corner. Phineas Richards on the northwest corner, thence east, Lattimer, P. D. Richards, Samuel W. Richards and J. E. Parker.

LOTS WERE RESERVED.

The early, if not original ownerships of blocks now embraced in the principal business district have been named as previously stated, early owners held allotments, called "inheritances" for certain designated persons to arrive later. And this accounts for the fact that the person not arriving in Utah until the early "fifties" received building places in the central part of the city. Three full blocks were retained for "public squares," and these were designated as "Pioneer Square," "Emigration Square," and "University of Deseret Square."